```
index (../../genindex.html) | modules (../../py-modindex.html) | next (../../packages/autogen/obspy.signal.trigger.recursive_sta_lta.html) | previous (plotting_spectrograms.html) ObsPy Documentation (1.0.1) (../../contents.html) / ObsPy Tutorial (../index.html)
```

12. Trigger/Picker Tutorial

This is a small tutorial that started as a practical for the UNESCO short course on triggering. Test data used in this tutorial can be downloaded here: trigger_data.zip (https://examples.obspy.org/trigger_data.zip).

The triggers are implemented as described in [Withers1998] (../../citations.html#withers1998). Information on finding the right trigger parameters for STA/LTA type triggers can be found in [Trnkoczy2012] (../../citations.html#trnkoczy2012).

See also

Please note the convenience method of ObsPy's **Stream.trigger**

(../../packages/autogen/obspy.core.stream.Stream.trigger.html#obspy.core.stream.Stream.trigger) and **Trace.trigger** (../../packages/autogen/obspy.core.trace.Trace.trigger.html#obspy.core.trace.Trace.trigger) objects for triggering.

12.1. Reading Waveform Data

The data files are read into an ObsPy **Trace** (../../packages/autogen/obspy.core.trace.Trace.html#obspy.core.trace.Trace) object using the **read()** (../../packages/autogen/obspy.core.stream.read.html#obspy.core.stream.read) function.

```
>>> from obspy.core import read
>>> st = read("https://examples.obspy.org/ev0_6.a01.gse2")
>>> st = st.select(component="Z")
>>> tr = st[0]
```

The data format is automatically detected. Important in this tutorial are the **Trace** (../../packages/autogen/obspy.core.trace.Trace.html#obspy.core.trace.Trace) attributes:

```
tr.data
```

contains the data as numpy.ndarray

(https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/reference/generated/numpy.ndarray.html#numpy.ndarray)

tr.stats

contains a dict-like class of header entries

tr.stats.sampling_rate

the sampling rate

tr.stats.npts

sample count of data

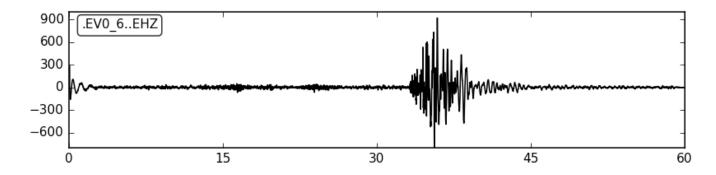
As an example, the header of the data file is printed and the data are plotted like this:

Using the **plot()** (../../packages/autogen/obspy.core.trace.Trace.plot.html#obspy.core.trace.Trace.plot) method of the **Trace** (../../packages/autogen/obspy.core.trace.Trace.html#obspy.core.trace.Trace) objects will show the plot.

```
>>> tr.plot(type="relative")
```

(Source code (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial.py), png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial.png), hires.png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial.hires.png))





12.2. Available Methods

After loading the data, we are able to pass the waveform data to the following trigger routines defined in **obspy.signal.trigger** (../../packages/autogen/obspy.signal.trigger.html#module-obspy.signal.trigger):

recursive_sta_lta (/packages/autogen/obspy.signal.trigger.recursive_sta_lta.html#obspy.signal.trigger.recursive_sta_lta)(a, nsta, nlta)	Recursive STA/LTA
carl_sta_trig (//packages/autogen/obspy.signal.trigger.carl_sta_trig.html#obspy.signal.trigger.carl_sta_trig) (a, nsta, nlta, ratio, quiet)	Computes the carlSTAtrig characteristic function.
classic_STALTA	
(//packages/autogen/obspy.signal.trigger.classic_STALTA.html#obspy.signal.trigger.classic_STALTA)(a, nsta, nlta)	
delayed sta lta	Delayed STA/LTA.
(//packages/autogen/obspy.signal.trigger.delayed_sta_lta.html#obspy.signal.trigger.delayed_sta_lta)(a, nsta, nlta)	, .

 z_detect (../.../packages/autogen/obspy.signal.trigger.z_detect.html#obspy.signal.trigger.z_detect)(a, nsta)
 Z-detector.

 pk_baer (../.../packages/autogen/obspy.signal.trigger.pk_baer.html#obspy.signal.trigger.pk_baer)
 Wrapper for P-picker routine by M. Baer, Schweizer Erdbebendienst.

 ar_pick (../.../packages/autogen/obspy.signal.trigger.ar_pick.html#obspy.signal.trigger.ar_pick)
 Return corresponding picks of the AR picker

Help for each function is available HTML formatted or in the usual Python manner:

```
>>> from obspy.signal.trigger import classic_sta_lta
>>> help(classicSTALTA)
Help on function classicSTALTA in module obspy.signal.trigger...
```

The triggering itself mainly consists of the following two steps:

- Calculating the characteristic function
- · Setting picks based on values of the characteristic function
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.recursive_sta_lta
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.carl_sta_trig
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.classic STALTA
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.delayed_sta_lta
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.z_detect
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.pk_baer
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.ar_pick

Help for each function is available HTML formatted or in the usual Python manner:

```
>>> from obspy.signal.trigger import classic_sta_lta
>>> help(classicSTALTA)
Help on function classicSTALTA in module obspy.signal.trigger...
```

The triggering itself mainly consists of the following two steps:

- · Calculating the characteristic function
- · Setting picks based on values of the characteristic function
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.recursive_sta_lta
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.carl_sta_trig
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.classic_STALTA
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.delayed_sta_lta
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.z_detect
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.pk_baer
 - ~obspy.signal.trigger.ar_pick

Help for each function is available HTML formatted or in the usual Python manner:

```
>>> from obspy.signal.trigger import classic_STALTA
>>> help(classicSTALTA)
Help on function classicSTALTA in module obspy.signal.trigger...
```

The triggering itself mainly consists of the following two steps:

- · Calculating the characteristic function
- · Setting picks based on values of the characteristic function

12.3. Trigger Examples

For all the examples, the commands to read in the data and to load the modules are the following:

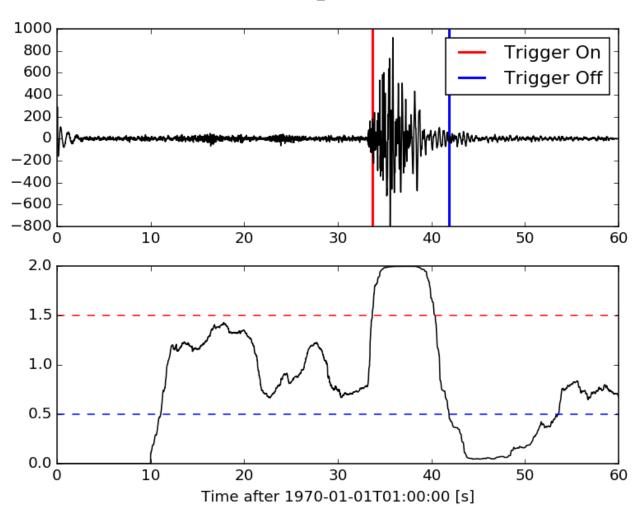
```
>>> from obspy.core import read
>>> from obspy.signal.trigger import plotTrigger
>>> trace = read("https://examples.obspy.org/ev0_6.a01.gse2")[0]
>>> df = trace.stats.sampling_rate
```

12.3.1. Classic Sta Lta

```
>>> from obspy.signal.trigger import classic_sta_lta
>>> cft = classic_STALTA(trace.data, int(5 * df), int(10 * df))
>>> plot_trigger(trace, cft, 1.5, 0.5)
```

```
>>> cft = classic_STALTA(trace.data, int(5 * df), int(10 * df))
>>> plot_trigger(trace, cft, 1.5, 0.5)
```

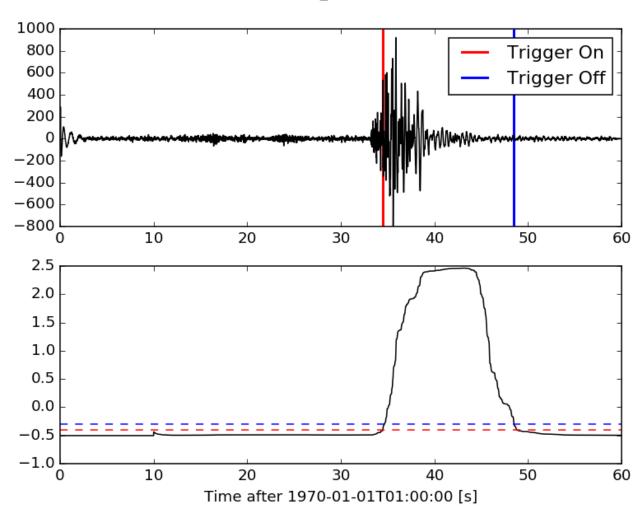
```
(Source code (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_classic_sta_lta.py), png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_classic_sta_lta.png), hires.png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_classic_sta_lta.hires.png))
```



12.3.2. Z-Detect

```
>>> from obspy.signal.trigger import z_detect
>>> cft = z_detect(trace.data, int(10 * df))
>>> plot_trigger(trace, cft, -0.4, -0.3)
```

(Source code (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_z_detect.py), png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_z_detect.png), hires.png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_z_detect.hires.png))

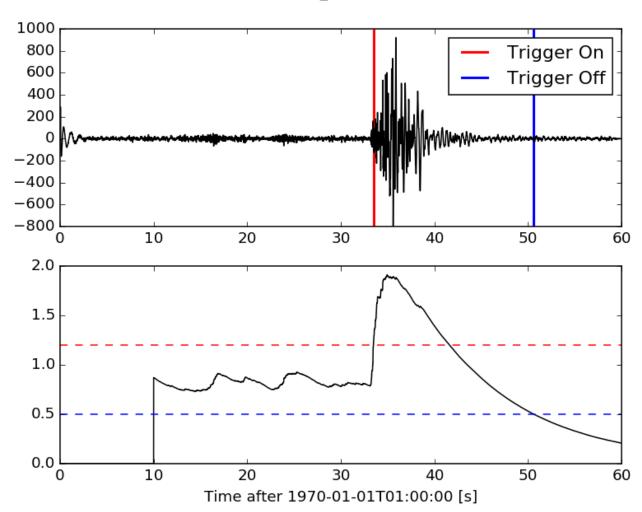


12.3.3. Recursive Sta Lta

```
>>> from obspy.signal.trigger import recursive_STALTA
>>> cft = recursive_sta_lta(trace.data, int(5 * df), int(10 * df))
>>> plot_trigger(trace, cft, 1.2, 0.5)
```

```
>>> cft = recursive_STALTA(trace.data, int(5 * df), int(10 * df))
>>> plot_trigger(trace, cft, 1.2, 0.5)
```

(Source code (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_recursive_sta_lta.py), png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_recursive_sta_lta.png), hires.png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_recursive_sta_lta.hires.png))

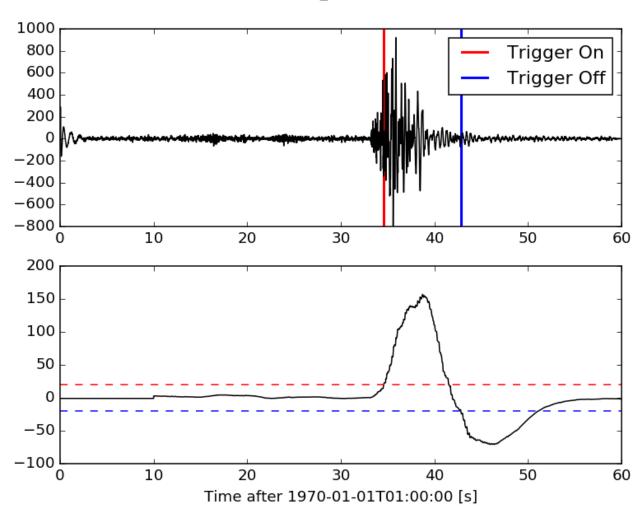


12.3.4. Carl-Sta-Trig

```
>>> from obspy.signal.trigger import carl_STA_trig
>>> cft = carl_sta_trig(trace.data, int(5 * df), int(10 * df), 0.8, 0.8)
>>> plot_trigger(trace, cft, 20.0, -20.0)
```

```
>>> cft = carl_STA_trig(trace.data, int(5 * df), int(10 * df), 0.8, 0.8)
>>> plot_trigger(trace, cft, 20.0, -20.0)
```

(Source code (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_carl_sta_trig.py), png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_carl_sta_trig.png), hires.png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_carl_sta_trig.hires.png))

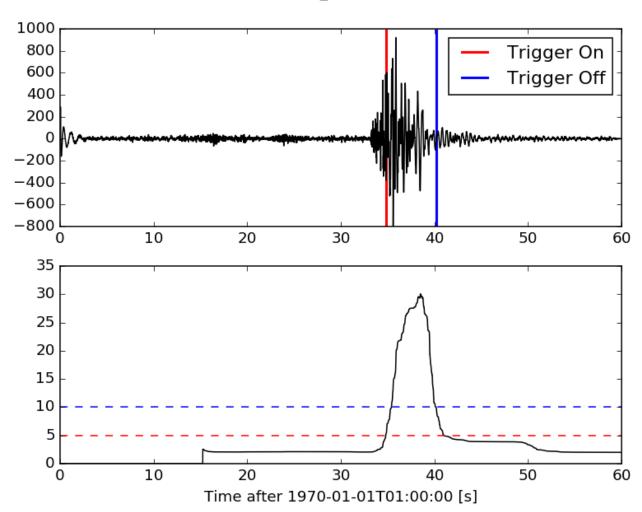


12.3.5. Delayed Sta Lta

```
>>> from obspy.signal.trigger import delayed_STALTA
>>> cft = delayed_sta_lta(trace.data, int(5 * df), int(10 * df))
>>> plot_trigger(trace, cft, 5, 10)
```

```
>>> cft = delayed_STALTA(trace.data, int(5 * df), int(10 * df))
>>> plot_trigger(trace, cft, 5, 10)
```

(Source code (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_delayed_sta_lta.py), png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_delayed_sta_lta.png), hires.png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_delayed_sta_lta.hires.png))



12.4. Network Coincidence Trigger Example

In this example we perform a coincidence trigger on a local scale network of 4 stations. For the single station triggers a recursive STA/LTA is used. The waveform data span about four minutes and include four local events. Two are easily recognizable (MI 1-2), the other two can only be detected with well adjusted trigger settings (MI <= 0).

First we assemble a Stream object with all waveform data, the data used in the example is available from our web server:

After applying a bandpass filter we run the coincidence triggering on all data. In the example a recursive STA/LTA is used. The trigger parameters are set to 0.5 and 10 second time windows, respectively. The on-threshold is set to 3.5, the off-threshold to 1. In this example every station gets a weight of 1 and the coincidence sum threshold is set to 3. For more complex network setups the weighting for every station/channel can be customized. We want to keep our original data so we work with a copy of the original stream:

```
>>> st.filter('bandpass', freqmin=10, freqmax=20) # optional prefiltering
>>> from obspy.signal import coincidence_trigger
>>> st2 = st.copy()
>>> trig = coincidence_trigger("recstalta", 3.5, 1, st2, 3, sta=0.5, lta=10)
```

Using pretty print the results display like this:

```
>>> from pprint import pprint
>>> pprint(trig)
[{'coincidence_sum': 4.0,
  'duration': 4.5299999713897705,
  'stations': ['UH3', 'UH2', 'UH1', 'UH4'],
  'time': UTCDateTime(2010, 5, 27, 16, 24, 33, 190000),
  'trace ids': ['BW.UH3..SHZ', 'BW.UH2..SHZ', 'BW.UH1..SHZ',
                'BW.UH4..SHZ']},
 {'coincidence_sum': 3.0,
  'duration': 3.440000057220459,
  'stations': ['UH2', 'UH3', 'UH1'],
  'time': UTCDateTime(2010, 5, 27, 16, 27, 1, 260000),
  'trace ids': ['BW.UH2..SHZ', 'BW.UH3..SHZ', 'BW.UH1..SHZ']},
 {'coincidence sum': 4.0,
  'duration': 4.7899999618530273,
  'stations': ['UH3', 'UH2', 'UH1', 'UH4'],
  'time': UTCDateTime(2010, 5, 27, 16, 27, 30, 490000),
  'trace_ids': ['BW.UH3..SHZ', 'BW.UH2..SHZ', 'BW.UH1..SHZ',
                'BW.UH4..SHZ']}]
```

With these settings the coincidence trigger reports three events. For each (possible) event the start time and duration is provided. Furthermore, a list of station names and trace IDs is provided, ordered by the time the stations have triggered, which can give a first rough idea of the possible event location. We can request additional information by specifying details=True:

For clarity, we only display information on the first item in the results here:

```
>>> pprint(trig[0])
{'cft_peak_wmean': 19.561900329259956,
 'cft_peaks': [19.535644192544272,
               19.872432918501264,
               19.622171410201297,
               19.217352795792998],
 'cft_std_wmean': 5.4565629691954713,
 'cft_stds': [5.292458320417178,
              5.6565387957966404,
              5.7582248973698507,
              5.1190298631982163],
 'coincidence sum': 4.0,
 'duration': 4.5299999713897705,
 'stations': ['UH3', 'UH2', 'UH1', 'UH4'],
 'time': UTCDateTime(2010, 5, 27, 16, 24, 33, 190000),
 'trace_ids': ['BW.UH3..SHZ', 'BW.UH2..SHZ', 'BW.UH1..SHZ', 'BW.UH4..SHZ']}
```

Here, some additional information on the peak values and standard deviations of the characteristic functions of the single station triggers is provided. Also, for both a weighted mean is calculated. These values can help to distinguish certain from questionable network triggers.

For more information on all possible options see the documentation page for **coincidence_trigger()** (../../packages/autogen/obspy.signal.trigger.coincidence_trigger.html#obspy.signal.trigger.coincidence_trigger).

12.5. Advanced Network Coincidence Trigger Example with Similarity Detection

This example is an extension of the common network coincidence trigger. Waveforms with already known event(s) can be provided to check waveform similarity of single-station triggers. If the corresponding similarity threshold is exceeded the event trigger is included in the result list even if the coincidence sum does not exceed the specified minimum coincidence sum. Using this approach, events can be detected that have good recordings on one station with very similar waveforms but for some reason are not detected on enough other stations (e.g. temporary station outages or local high noise levels etc.). An arbitrary number of template waveforms can be provided for any station. Computation time might get significantly higher due to the necessary cross correlations. In the example we use two three-component event templates on top of a common network trigger on vertical components only.

Here we set up a dictionary with template events for one single station. The specified times are exact P wave onsets, the event duration (including S wave) is about 2.5 seconds. On station UH3 we use two template events with three-component data, on station UH1 we use one template event with only vertical component data.

The triggering step, including providing of similarity threshold and event template waveforms. Note that the coincidence sum is set to 4 and we manually specify to only use vertical components with equal station coincidence values of 1.

The results now include two event triggers, that do not reach the specified minimum coincidence threshold but that have a similarity value that exceeds the specified similarity threshold when compared to at least one of the provided event template waveforms. Note the values of 1.0 when checking the event triggers where we extracted the event templates for this example.

```
>>> from pprint import pprint
>>> pprint(trig)
[{'coincidence sum': 4.0,
  'duration': 4.1100001335144043,
  'similarity': {'UH1': 0.9414944738498271, 'UH3': 1.0},
  'stations': ['UH3', 'UH2', 'UH1', 'UH4'],
  'time': UTCDateTime(2010, 5, 27, 16, 24, 33, 210000),
  'trace_ids': ['BW.UH3..SHZ', 'BW.UH2..SHZ', 'BW.UH1..SHZ', 'BW.UH4..SHZ']},
 {'coincidence_sum': 3.0,
  'duration': 1.9900000095367432,
  'similarity': {'UH1': 0.65228204570577764, 'UH3': 0.72679293429214198},
  'stations': ['UH3', 'UH1', 'UH2'],
  'time': UTCDateTime(2010, 5, 27, 16, 25, 26, 710000),
  'trace_ids': ['BW.UH3..SHZ', 'BW.UH1..SHZ', 'BW.UH2..SHZ']},
 {'coincidence sum': 3.0,
  'duration': 1.9200000762939453,
  'similarity': {'UH1': 0.89404458774338103, 'UH3': 0.74581409371425222},
  'stations': ['UH2', 'UH1', 'UH3'],
  'time': UTCDateTime(2010, 5, 27, 16, 27, 2, 260000),
  'trace_ids': ['BW.UH2..SHZ', 'BW.UH1..SHZ', 'BW.UH3..SHZ']},
 {'coincidence_sum': 4.0,
  'duration': 4.0299999713897705,
  'similarity': {'UH1': 1.0, 'UH3': 1.0},
  'stations': ['UH3', 'UH2', 'UH1', 'UH4'],
  'time': UTCDateTime(2010, 5, 27, 16, 27, 30, 510000),
  'trace_ids': ['BW.UH3..SHZ', 'BW.UH2..SHZ', 'BW.UH1..SHZ', 'BW.UH4..SHZ']}]
```

For more information on all possible options see the documentation page for **coincidence_trigger()** (../../packages/autogen/obspy.signal.trigger.coincidence_trigger.html#obspy.signal.trigger.coincidence_trigger).

12.6. Picker Examples

12.6.1. Baer Picker

For **pk_baer()** (../../packages/autogen/obspy.signal.trigger.pk_baer.html#obspy.signal.trigger.pk_baer), input is in seconds, output is in samples.

```
>>> from obspy.core import read
>>> from obspy.signal.trigger import pk_baer
>>> trace = read("https://examples.obspy.org/ev0_6.a01.gse2")[0]
>>> df = trace.stats.sampling_rate
>>> p_pick, phase_info = pk_baer(trace.data, df,
...
20, 60, 7.0, 12.0, 100, 100)
>>> print(p_pick)
6894
>>> print(phase_info)
EPU3
>>> print(p_pick / df)
34.47
```

This yields the output 34.47 EPU3, which means that a P pick was set at 34.47s with Phase information EPU3.

12.6.2. AR Picker

For **ar_pick()** (../../packages/autogen/obspy.signal.trigger.ar_pick.html#obspy.signal.trigger.ar_pick), input and output are in seconds.

```
>>> from obspy.core import read
>>> from obspy.signal.trigger import ar_pick
>>> tr1 = read('https://examples.obspy.org/loc_RJ0B20050801145719850.z.gse2')[0]
>>> tr2 = read('https://examples.obspy.org/loc_RJ0B20050801145719850.n.gse2')[0]
>>> tr3 = read('https://examples.obspy.org/loc_RJ0B20050801145719850.e.gse2')[0]
>>> df = tr1.stats.sampling_rate
>>> p_pick, s_pick = ar_pick(tr1.data, tr2.data, tr3.data, df,
...
1.0, 20.0, 1.0, 0.1, 4.0, 1.0, 2, 8, 0.1, 0.2)
>>> print(p_pick)
30.6350002289
>>> print(s_pick)
31.2800006866
```

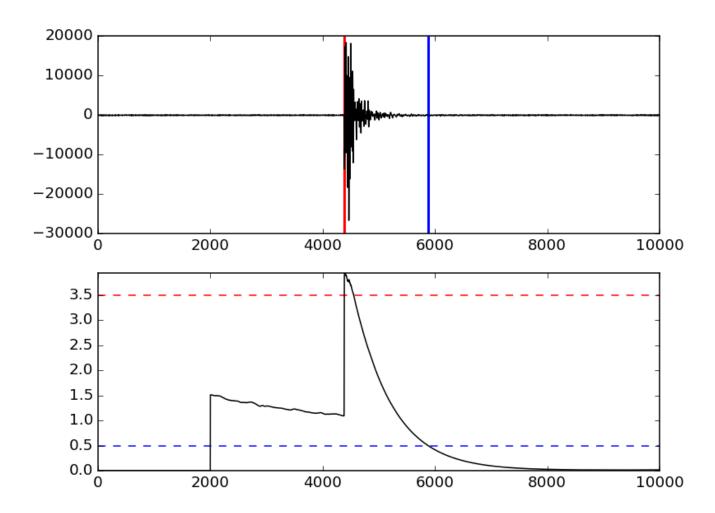
This gives the output 30.6350002289 and 31.2800006866, meaning that a P pick at 30.64s and an S pick at 31.28s were identified.

12.7. Advanced Example

A more complicated example, where the data are retrieved via ArcLink and results are plotted step by step, is shown here:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import obspy
from obspy.clients.arclink import Client
from obspy.signal.trigger import recursive stalta, trigger onset
# Retrieve waveforms via ArcLink
client = Client(host="erde.geophysik.uni-muenchen.de", port=18001,
                user="test@obspy.de")
t = obspy.UTCDateTime("2009-08-24 00:19:45")
st = client.get waveforms('BW', 'RTSH', '', 'EHZ', t, t + 50)
# For convenience
tr = st[0] # only one trace in mseed volume
df = tr.stats.sampling_rate
# Characteristic function and trigger onsets
cft = recursive_sta_lta(tr.data, int(2.5 * df), int(10. * df))
on_of = trigger_onset(cft, 3.5, 0.5)
# Plotting the results
ax = plt.subplot(211)
plt.plot(tr.data, 'k')
ymin, ymax = ax.get_ylim()
plt.vlines(on_of[:, 0], ymin, ymax, color='r', linewidth=2)
plt.vlines(on_of[:, 1], ymin, ymax, color='b', linewidth=2)
plt.subplot(212, sharex=ax)
plt.plot(cft, 'k')
plt.hlines([3.5, 0.5], 0, len(cft), color=['r', 'b'], linestyle='--')
plt.axis('tight')
plt.show()
```

```
(Source code (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_advanced.py), png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_advanced.png), hires.png (../../tutorial/code_snippets/trigger_tutorial_advanced.hires.png))
```



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